

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

### OPTICAL WORKSTATION

An optical workstation comprising an optical breadboard supported by a frame, the frame comprising a plurality of upstanding legs interconnected by laterally  
5 extending cross-beams, the cross-beams defining a space into which the optical breadboard is received and laterally enclosed. By laterally enclosing the optical breadboard with the cross-beam frame elements, side protection for the optical breadboard is provided, thus protecting it from lateral impacts against which  
10 conventional damping mounts are not effective. In addition, since the cross-beams are part of the frame structure, they provide a stable and rigid platform for mounting optical and other components at the very edge of the workstation outside the optical breadboard area. Anchor points in the cross-beams are provided for this purpose. Incorporation of the cross-beams into the frame structure also provides an enhanced  
15 level of structural rigidity which allows the frame to be made of aluminum rather than steel to provide a much lighter, more maneuverable product.